

farmers in the form of uniform and subsidised MRPs/indicative MRPs.

Drug price control mechanism

3847. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi High Court has issued a direction to the Union Government to file an affidavit in the Court about the actions taken by the Government to administer effectively the price control mechanism and enforce uniform price-fixation norms under the Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any affidavit has since been filed, in compliance with the directive of the court; and

(d) what further action has been/is proposed to be taken to prevent a burgeoning rise in the prices of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) The Delhi High Court had issued a direction to submit an affidavit in relation to the modalities which are taken into consideration in the examination of price fixation and price variation in respect of non-scheduled formulations under para 10 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. As per the direction of the Court, an affidavit has been filed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), an attached office of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in the Court in March, 2001.

(d) Fixation of prices of Scheduled drugs and formulations based thereon is an ongoing process¹ undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. Revision of prices so fixed is also done, as and when called for from time to time, taking into account the changes in input cost resulting in both upward as well as downward revision.